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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/008,334	12/06/2001	Lin Xu	4208-4057	3436
27123 7590 06/25/2008 MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P. 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER NEW YORK, NY 10281-2101				
EXAMINER AVELLINO, JOSEPH E				
ART UNIT 2146		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 06/25/2008		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/008,334

Applicant(s)

XU ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph E. Avellino

Art Unit

2146

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-549)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-28 are pending in this application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 13, 2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-12, 15-22, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brachman et al. (USPN 6,704,576) (hereinafter Brachman) in view of Nobuyasu et al. (USPN 6,597,673) (hereinafter Nobuyasu).

1. Referring to claim 1, Brachman discloses a method for effectively using network resources (e.g. abstract), comprising:

forwarding to a reception group a service (i.e. broadcast) corresponding to said reception group (i.e. those users wishing to receive the broadcast are considered within the reception group) (Figure 5, ref. 715);

upon a change in the cellular distribution of the reception group (i.e. a user leaves the broadcast), deciding whether a subset of said reception group should receive said service via a unicast link or via a multicast link (i.e. if more than one person is requesting the same data, the transmission is converted from unicast to a multicast transmission) (Figure 3; col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 2; col. 7, lines 20-25);

wherein the change in the cellular distribution of the reception group comprises a change in one or more cells with which one or more members of the reception group have a relationship (i.e. a new user joins the reception group, and therefore must join a cell), wherein the determining takes into account relationship information retrieved from one or more members of the reception group, wherein the relationship information comprises indication of one or more cells with which the one or more members are capable of communicating (i.e. any transmission from the member would inherently indicate at least one cell that the member is capable of communicating with, since otherwise the member would be unable to contact the server) (Figure 2; col. 5, line 58 to col. 6, line 19).

Brachman does not specifically disclose that the change in cellular distribution of the reception group comprises a user establishing a relationship with one or more first cells, and severing a relationship with one or more second cells and that the relationship information includes information received from each of the members comprises

indication of a plurality of cells with which the member is capable of communicating, rather the use of a cold start user joining a reception group (see above). In analogous art, Nobuyasu discloses another method of cellular distribution of content which discloses the change in cellular distribution of the reception group comprises a user establishing a relationship with one or more first cells, and severing a relationship with one or more second cells (i.e. mobile station is handed off to a wireless link with another base station), and that the relationship information includes information received from each of the members comprises indication of a plurality of cells with which the member is capable of communicating (i.e. wireless links are established with a plurality of base stations simultaneously) (col. 4, lines 31-42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Nobuyasu and its multiple simultaneous link establishment with the establishment of a single cell multicast as described in Brachman in order to provide an efficient mechanism to create a multicast distribution within a single cell with which the user of Nobuyasu is communicating with, rather than establishing a multicast channel in one cell and a unicast channel in the other cell for the particular mobile user.

2. Claim 2 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above. Furthermore Brachman discloses the change does not result in there being no terminals in the reception group (i.e. the addition of a user to the group) (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 2).

3. Claim 3 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above. Furthermore, Brachman discloses the selecting and deciding are performed upon a change in the physical location of a member of said group (this limitation can be construed that since the user is new, it originally had no location in the network, and therefore upon joining, now has a location in the group) (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 2).

4. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above. Furthermore Brachman discloses the step of deciding further comprises determining the ideality of each option (i.e. if there are no users in the cell requesting the same content, then use the unicast link) (col. 5, line 58 to col. 6, line 19).

5. Claims 6-12 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above..

6. Referring to claim 15, Brachman discloses the deciding takes into account the bandwidth used and the per-unit-cost of that bandwidth (i.e. cost versus reliability and the speed of delivery) (col. 8, lines 31-40).

7. Claim 16 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

8. Referring to claim 17, Brachman discloses said deciding takes into account the percentage of total available link bandwidth used and the percentage of terminals using

the link that would be served by using the bandwidth (i.e. if a threshold amount of cells has been reached, then convert the content to an RF broadcast) (Figure 2, ref. 240).

9. Claim 18 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

10. Referring to claim 19, Brachman discloses receiving a join indication from a terminal (i.e. a new user requests content) (Figure 2, ref. 205).

11. Claim 20 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

12. Referring to claim 21, Brachman discloses the join indication comprises a specification of the terminal's network interfaces (i.e. any request for content must inherently include the address of the sender, otherwise there would be no way to send the content back to the requestor, in the packet network of Brachman, the address identifies the network interface of the client) (col. 2, lines 62-67).

13. Referring to claim 22, Brachman discloses the join indication comprises a specification of the networks currently available to the terminal (i.e. any request for content must include the address of the sender, which would indicate to the receiver what networks are available to the terminal, since the request must come over at least one network) (col. 2, lines 62-67).

14. Claims 25 and 26 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brachman-Nobuyasu in view of Stanforth (U.S 2002/0058502).

15. Referring to claim 13, Brachman-Nobuyasu discloses the invention substantively as described in claim 1. Brachman furthermore discloses the deciding takes into account the bandwidth used (col. 5, lines 60-65). Brachman-Nobuyasu does not specifically disclose taking into account the spectral spectrum efficiency factor of each access system. In analogous art, Stanforth discloses another method of effectively using network resources which discloses utilizing spectral efficiency factor as a way to improve wireless communications (p. 1, ¶ 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Stanforth with Brachman-Nobuyasu in order to improve spectral efficiency by interconnecting various differing access networks via the use of gateways as supported by Stanforth (p. 3, ¶ 13).

16. Claim 14 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

Claims 23, 24, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brachman-Nobuyasu in view of Kahn et al. (US 2002/0143951) (hereinafter Kahn).

17. Regarding claims 23 and 24, Brachman-Nobuyasu discloses the invention substantively as described in the claims above. Brachman-Nobuyasu does not specifically disclose the join indication comprises a desired start or stop time for reception of transmissions. In analogous art, Khan discloses another method for effectively using network resources which discloses the use of IGMP join message [0027-0030], which by definition includes: a) group address (networks available), b) a designated router or a way to determine a designated router; and c) the multicast address that identifies a particular transmission session, (session by definition have a start time and an ending time). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Kahn with Brachman-Nobuyasu in order to utilize the advantages of multicast transmission while reducing the network load associated with that type of transmission as supported by Kahn (p. 2, ¶ 9).

18. Claims 27 and 28 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

Response to Argument

19. Applicant's arguments submitted June 13, 2008 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

Conclusion

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph E. Avellino whose telephone number is (571) 272-3905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey C. Pwu can be reached on (571)272-6798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Joseph E. Avellino/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2146